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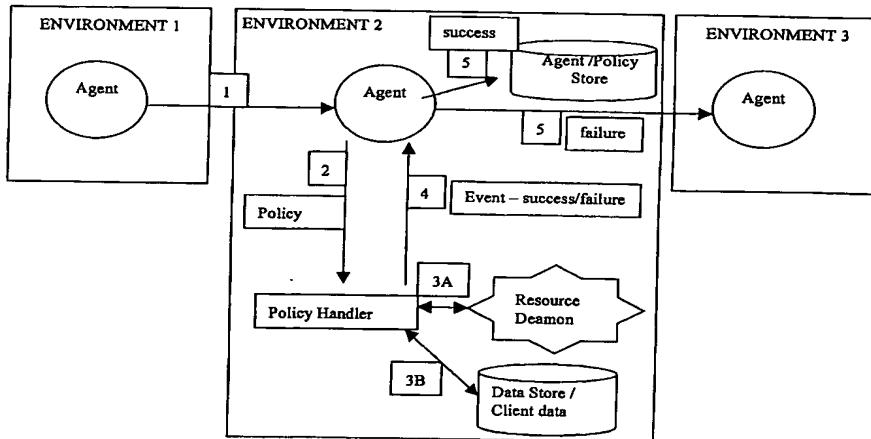0322862.4   30 September 2003 (30.09.2003)   GB

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(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED STORAGE NETWORK

(57) Abstract: A distributed storage network of computers is disclosed in which a determination as to whether to store a data item at a computer connected to said network is made in dependence on a policy document associated with that data item. The policy document is constructed in accordance with a Document Type Definition expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML). This provides a more flexible method of system managed storage than has hitherto been achieved.